

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: The Kentucky Board of Education

FROM: Gene Wilhoit

DATE: January 26, 2006

SUBJECT: Example Drafts from the Program of Studies - Attachments for staff
 note found on pages 35-38 of the February Agenda Book

In order to complete the work of revising the Program of Studies in a timely fashion with expert assistance, the Kentucky Department of Education contracted with the Center for Assessment, a national not-for-profit organization. Karin Hess and other staff from the Center were working on the drafts in consultation with KDE.

At the January 10, 2006, meeting of the Government Contract Review Committee, the committee pulled the contract with the Center for Assessment for discussion. The Committee objected to the Center for Assessment contract based upon an appearance of impropriety between principal owners of the vender (Brian Gong and Richard Hill) and their relationship with the Kentucky Department of Education concerning an upcoming RFP for assessment services. At this point, all work with the Center ceased, pending a decision from the Finance and Administration Cabinet. KDE received word on January 20 that the objection had been dismissed by the Cabinet, as they found no merit to the appearance of impropriety.

This temporary ten-day delay in KDE's work with the Center resulted in the need to bring fewer example drafts from the Program of Studies for review and discussion at the February meeting.

Attached you will find drafts from science, social studies and reading as follows:

- Expanded version of the science example found in the Agenda Book, pages 39-42; it is one strand, Physical Science - Structure and Transformation of Matter, Primary through High School. (Note: The "Documentation Notes" section will eventually disappear and is there for conversations between staff and the contractor and documentation of resources.)

- Grade 5 Social Studies (Note: The "Documentation Notes" section will eventually disappear and is there for conversations between staff and the contractor and documentation of resources.)
- High School Reading, Grades 9 and 10 (Note: The "Documentation Notes" section will eventually disappear and is there for conversations between staff and the contractor and documentation of resources.)

Karin Hess from the Center for Assessment will be on hand at the Board meeting on February 1 to discuss these drafts, the process underway, and receive further direction from the Board regarding the remaining work to be completed on the Program of Studies.

If you have questions on this matter, contact Starr Lewis or Nancy LaCount at 502-564-9850.

Attachments